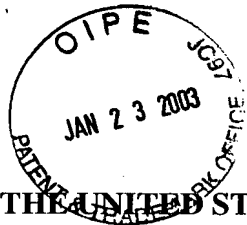


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Chang, *et al.*

Confirmation No. 8931

Serial No.: 09/465,491

Group Art Unit: 1634

Filed: December 16, 1999

Examiner: Goldberg, J.

For: QUANTITATION OF hTERT mRNA  
EXPRESSION

Attorney Docket No.: RPA 1002

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants have carefully considered the final Office Action, mailed December 9, 2002, in connection with the above-captioned application. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and remarks that follow is respectfully requested. Enclosed herewith are Exhibit A (Claim Amendments: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made) and Exhibit B (Claim Amendments: Pending Claims After Entry of Instant Amendments), Fee Transmittal Sheet and Notice of Appeal.

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 31, 38-45 and 48-49 without prejudice.

Please amend Claim 21 to read as follows:

21. (Thrice amended) A method for identifying the presence of cancerous cells in a human sample wherein said method comprises: